

University Reading Room

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WATCH THIS SPACE

NEXT WEEK

WETZLER BROS.,

Low Price Dealers

HOLBROOK POINTERS.

Opinion of a New Mexico Newspaper Writer.

The Albuquerque Citizen of a recent date has the following to say in regard to Holbrook and vicinity.

"Two-thirds way between Albuquerque on the Rio Grande and the San Francisco mountains, whose towering, symmetrical, snow-clad peaks form the first bit of eye-resting scenery which greets the transcontinental tourist after leaving the Rio Grande valley on the Santa Fe route to cross the great desert of the west, is to be found the enterprising town of Holbrook.

It is small in proportion but great in importance from a commercial standpoint.

Holbrook is commercially important from the fact that it is the distributing point for people living in a scope of country grazed over by thousands of sheep and cattle, 150 miles to the north and as far to the south.

To the south of Holbrook leads the Fort Apache trail for wagon routes of commerce to several Mormon towns and Fort Apache. At the fort are stationed

two troops of cavalry and one company of infantry. They get their supplies from Holbrook, where they are shipped by the government. The Fort Apache trail, well known to the veterans of the plains because of its early tragical history, is still the scene of the high-topped stage coach like army ambulances and the mule team freight wagon. And it is a hard trail. The first thirty miles after leaving the railroad is a burning scope of sand without a single watering place.

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The first place reached where water can be found is Snowflake, a slight depression in the desert, natural and without an outlet. It is in reality an oasis; vegetation thrives for the planting. It is a Mormon settlement of about 700 peaceful, sturdy and honest followers of Joseph Smith and his sect. They till the soil and seem content with the little world in which they live. They thrive, it seems, in their seclusion; raise large families, and some are quite wealthy in worldly goods, owning flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. In no instance do they practice polygamy.

On the Apache trail are several Mormon towns, but none as large as Snowflake. To the north of Holbrook is the Moki Indian reservation and several small towns.

It is estimated conservatively that 10,000 people secure their supplies through the six or eight stores at Holbrook. It is also a large wool shipping point, but not the headquarters of many cattlemen, as in former years. The Santa Fe built into Holbrook in 1881, and for some time after the terminals were there, then it was a cattle shipping station.

Cattle were driven to Holbrook

in those days for shipment from all over Arizona, New Mexico and even California and Mexico.

It was a lively place in those days. Money was plenty, and so were corpses. It was nothing of note for a cowboy to be killed in Holbrook in the years between the advent of the railroad and 1889, and not such a great event the several years following. In June of the year 1888 the town, with the exception of a few buildings north of the railroad, went up in smoke. The fire was a blow from which Holbrook never fully recovered. Part of the town was rebuilt, but not half of what burned. Where there were ten saloons before the fire, there is one now, and the same ratio may be applied to the amount of money and people to be found there then and now.

But Holbrook is still important. It will always be a source of supplying the people of the country which it now rules. And it may grow. The petrified forest of Arizona, the greatest yet discovered, is best visited out from Holbrook. Tourists are learning this, notwithstanding the people of Holbrook have made no effort in this line. It is seventeen miles to the forest

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